

Dear Chairmen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 6897 affecting the application of pesticides in Connecticut.

There are way too many chemicals trying to control pests. Dangerous accumulations continue to collect and build up in our soils and plants. Without your help ever changing chemical makeup and exceptions will allow this to go unchecked.

As Margaret Miner eloquently states in her testimony: "There are numerous diseases, disorders, and pests that can affect soil and grass. Today it's grubs, tomorrow rust disease, next summer slime mold -- always something. More exemptions will always be sought.

The perennial search for a pesticide that magically kills only the target without harming anything else has led to the development of some improved products. But with a billion pounds of pesticides released in the US every year, how much toxicity is really harmless ? And how many pesticides are introduced as perfectly safe and then turn out not to be.

A new relatively less toxic pesticide for grubs is chlorantraniliprole (Acelepryn™). I believe it is a product that could be permitted under this bill. The DuPont website offered an encouraging analysis of its safety and effectiveness, followed by this warning. **"This pesticide is toxic to aquatic invertebrates, oysters and shrimp. Do not apply directly to water. Drift and runoff may be hazardous to aquatic organisms in water adjacent to use sites."**

Many athletic fields and lawns are right alongside water. We at the Naugatuck River Revival Group join Rivers Alliance and urge the committee to continue its work for pesticide-free playing areas, and healthy streams and wetlands.

This bill will expand the protection of children, pets, and wildlife from exposure to pesticides. The category of pesticides as defined here includes herbicides, insecticides, fungicides (used on plants), and rodenticides. Pesticides are toxins designed to kill or otherwise adversely affect living things regarded as pests."

In short, I am against pesticide use on lawns and turf frequented by children, family and pets.

Is this *silent spring* once again? The chemical companies are a little smarter this time around.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Sondra Harman, Executive Director